

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: December 19, 2001

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on December 14, 2001

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Spill Response, Waxler Barge Gasoline Spill, Louisville, Kentucky

On November 8, 2001, OSC Turner responded at the request from Region 4, to a major gasoline release on the Ohio River, at the McAlpine Lock and Dam near Louisville, Kentucky. Six gasoline barges being pushed upstream ran into the approach and a railroad bridge at the lock and dam. The collision resulted in damage to one of the barges and the release of 84,000 gallons of gasoline. The Region 4 OSC (Art Smith) assumed control of the situation and working with the Responsible Party mobilized several cleanup contractors to the scene. In addition, the U.S Coast Guard MSO Louisville and Gulf Coast Strike Team, State of Kentucky and Indiana, and various local agencies responded to the emergency. This response was another successful test of the Cross-Boundary Support MOA between Regions 3, 4 and 5. In addition, Region 5 provided START support to the response in a more timely manner than Region 4 could have arranged for otherwise. Initially hot weather and favorable wind conditions contained the plume within the approach channel to the lock and dam. Various collection points were established in an effort to collect the spilled material, however, because of the warm weather most of the gasoline evaporated. ORSANCO provided real time up and down river water monitoring before the U.S. Coast Guard reopened the river for traffic.

Contacts: Kevin Turner (618-997-0115)
Art Smith (502-582-5161)

Expanded Pre-CERCLIS Assessment, International Harvester, Canton, Illinois

The Field Services Section assisted the Illinois EPA (IEPA) conduct sampling during a pre-CERCLIS assessment at the closed International Harvester site in Canton, Illinois. The sampling consisted of direct push continuous soil borings. IEPA was able to complete sampling of 18 locations during the week of November 26th, with a Geoprobe® macro core. During the week of December 3rd, FSS Environmental Scientist Steven Peterson together with two members of the Environmental Sciences Assistance Team completed the soil sampling using the Superfund Division direct push Geoprobe®. Eighteen additional soil borings were taken up to 21 feet deep, with most samples collected inside buildings. The Superfund Division Geoprobe® is mounted on a skidsteer which enables sampling to be completed inside buildings where other vehicle-mounted samplers do not have access.

Contact: Steven Peterson (312-353-1422)

Excavation of waste units completed on Feed Materials Production Center AKA Fernald Environmental Restoration Project), Fernald, Ohio

The largest source of groundwater contamination from the Fernald site has been removed. 400,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris have been removed from the southern waste units of which 90% has been placed in the On-Site Disposal Cell. This material had been determined to be the largest source of groundwater contamination at the site. Pre-excavation levels of uranium in groundwater were 2,000 ppb. Currently the highest level is 450 ppb. This is a result of a combination of the source removal, the active groundwater pump and treat system and the nature of the Great Miami Aquifer. Excavation began in the Spring of 1998.

Contact: Jim Saric (312-886-0992)

First waste cell at the on-site disposal facility, Feed Materials Production Center AKA Fernald Environmental Restoration Project, Fernald, Ohio

Construction of the multi-layer final cap for the first of seven cells was completed at the Fernald site. The cell holds 314,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris. Two other cells exist at the site. Cell 2 is 60 percent filled and Cell 3 is 25 percent filled. Two more cells are planned for construction next year and it is anticipated Cell 2 will be filled, with its final cap being completed in 2003. Ultimately, approximately 2.5

million cubic yards of material are planned to be placed in the cell. The on-site disposal of the large volume of material represents a compromise reached by all stakeholders whereby a balanced approach to remediating the site was selected. The large volumes of lower level contaminated materials are disposed on-site, while the smaller volumes of much higher contaminated materials are being shipped off-site.

Contact: Jim Saric (312-886-0992)

50th rail shipment of waste pit materials to leave Feed Materials Production Center AKA Fernald Enviromental Restoration Project, Fernald, Ohio

The 50th dedicated train carrying Fernald waste from six on-site waste pits was shipped to Envirocare of Utah. Approximately 3000 rail cars carrying waste pit materials have been shipped containing over 310,000 tons of waste, since waste shipments began in April 1999. The project is currently 33% complete. Waste from the pits is excavated, thermally dried, packaged in rail cars, and sent via rail for off-site disposal at Envirocare.

Contact: Jim Saric (312-886-0992)

Site Investigation: Laurel Jackson Paint, Laurel, Indiana

From December 5-6, 2001, CI Joe Kawecky met with the OSC on site to discuss enforcement strategy. Interviews conducted in Laurel, Indiana may result in additional sampling at two other locations; if the information provided can be confirmed. These additional locations were identified by the brother of the Laurel road site operator. The brother conducted similar operations of paint mixing at another location. The State of Indiana conducted a removal at this location but recommended further investigation. Information currently available leaves a suspicion that there may still be buried drums on the property. Several conflicts with information in the State's reports have been identified and one former property owner is still to be located and interviewed. Information requests are being prepared for the possible supplier of the paint waste used by the Jackson brothers. CI Kawecky met with the IDEM person assigned to the site and discussed further investigative needs.

Contact: Joe Kawecky (312-886-7236)

Region 5 Tremont City Landfill Progress Meetings with Ohio EPA, PRP, and Community Group, Dayton, Ohio

On December 10 and 11, 2001, Ron Murawski (Superfund Division RPM) and TN&A (Region 5 contractor) conducted three presentations (one each) to the Ohio EPA Southwest District Office, the Tremont Landfill Company (owner/operator PRP of the Tremont City Landfill), and CF/Water (a community group in the Springfield, Ohio area). Rafael Gonzalez (Office of Public Affairs Community Involvement Coordinator) assisted Mr. Murawski on discussions of community involvement activities. The Ohio EPA and PRP presentations occurred on December 10 in Dayton, Ohio, and the CF/Water presentation occurred on December 11 in Springfield, Ohio. The purposes of the meetings were to update the parties on Region 5's Phase III investigations (performed by TN&A), PRP search activities, and Region 5's planned actions for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS).

The main concern of Ohio EPA was to be involved in the review and negotiating aspects of the RI/FS phase. Ohio EPA, the PRP, and CF/Water expressed their appreciation to Region 5 for its presentations.

Contact: Ron Murawski (312-886-2940)

Region 5 Progress Meeting with Tremont City Landfill PRPs

On November 29, 2001, Ron Murawski (Superfund Division RPM), Diana Embil (ORC attorney), and TN&A (Region 5 contractor) conducted a presentation to the Tremont City Landfill PRPs at the John Marshall Law School. About 30 PRPs attended. The purposes of the meeting were to explain the Superfund process, update the PRPs on Region 5's Phase I, II, and III investigations (performed by TN&A), explain the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) draft Administrative Order on Consent (AOC), and invite the PRPs to participate in RI/FS negotiations. Fouad Dababneh, Region 5 Enforcement Specialist, helped to make the meeting a success by planning many related activities.

The PRPs had many concerns at the meeting, including why a Site-wide RI/FS draft AOC was issued, lack of projected cost information, unavailability of the Administrative Record, and how to proceed with de minimis settlements. Due, in part, to the concerns of the PRPs, Region 5 will soon re-issue a downscaled RI/FS AOC to include in its scope the barrellfill portion of the Site and related groundwater concerns.

Contact: Ron Murawski (312-886-2940)

Site Investigation, MI HI, Jackson, Michigan

From November 26-28, 2001 in Jackson, Michigan, CI Joe Kaweck and the OCS explored the site area. Piles of scattered and weathered documents were examined. The site has been vandalized several times and is being used as a hang out for local gangs who have been using the company's records for fires. Kaweck discovered documents identifying former employees of the plant. Current addresses for several have been confirmed and one interview completed. An interview with Jackson County economic development personnel provided useful information pertaining to former operators of the plant. A 104E request is being sent to one prior owner/operator. The investigation continues.

Contact: Joe Kaweck (312-886-7236)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Site Investigation East Saint Louis, Illinois

From November 13-15, 2001, in East Saint Louis CI Joe Kaweck and Enforcement Specialist Bill Ryczek identified the locations of several former railroad roundhouse areas slated for sampling and confirmed current property ownership. Only one of five is still standing, of the others only foundations remain. Several areas show signs of recent surveys. It is likely that construction activities may begin in these areas in the near future. Owners will be contacted for access agreements. Historical research regarding activities on the properties continues.

Contacts: Joe Kaweck (312-886-7236)
Bill Ryczek (312-886-7184)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Emergency Health Care Providers Seminar, Elyria and Lorain, Ohio

On December 11, 2001, the Elyria and Lorain County Health Departments held a seminar to discuss a local health response to a terrorism event. The seminar was held at the Community Health Partners West Campus in Lorain, Ohio. Health commissioners, hospital administrators, emergency departments, infectious disease, and EMS leaders attended the seminar. Discussion and presentations focused on nuclear, biological, and chemical agents. Jason El-Zein discussed chemical agent identification, signs and symbols, chemical and physical characteristics, PPE,

detections, and decontaminations.

Contact: Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)

Detroit REUS Team Meeting

December 12, 2001, was the final meeting for the Detroit REUS Team in 2001. It was held at the new offices of the Detroit Department of Environmental Affairs. The concluding meeting highlighted the accomplishments of the last year, where eleven sites were assessed and cleaned in preparation for redevelopment. Twenty-four sites remained on the action agenda and will carry over into 2002. Four more EPA removal actions are almost done and will be completed before the end of the year. EPA's removal actions are usually followed by MDEQ demolition and final cleanup before the site is released for redevelopment. The team has requested OSCs look into several new lead-tainted sites in the city, early next year.

The City/State/Federal team has been very successful in coordinating these actions in the past and they look forward to continuing these highly productive Brownfields efforts in the future.

Contacts: Ross Powers (734-692-7681)
Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)

Understanding Ecological Risk Assessment Training Presented to Region 5 Staff

On December 5-6, 2001, David Brauner, James Chapman, and Brenda Jones (Superfund Ecologists) presented an informational workshop on the processes and procedures for doing Ecological Risk Assessments (ERAs) in Superfund. The course was given to approximately twenty students to further understanding of ERAs and how they may, and should be, applied at Superfund sites. Participants included Project Managers, environmental scientists, and other staff and interns from several divisions and agencies including: Superfund, RCRA Corrective Action, Permits, FIELDS, ARD, Water, and NOAA. The training covered topics including why ERAs are done, basic ecology, ecological effects of stressors, the eight-step guidelines as established by U. S. EPA, and probabilistic ecological risk assessment. There was a demonstration of the Spatial Analysis and Decision Assistant (SADA) software package that is intended to assist in performing

risk assessments. The students participated in two hands-on exercises to help demonstrate some parts of the process. Student evaluations suggest that the course was highly regarded as indicated by the following selected comments: This was one of the best and most useful training courses I have been to since I joined the EPA in 1992, by far ; The speakers were well informed, good orators... ; and All the presentations were very clear and well spoken. The slides were creative and the pictures were great. I would recommend this course.

Contacts: David Brauner (312-886-1526)
James Chapman (312-886-7195)
Brenda Jones (312-886-7188)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Letter of Appreciation, (Tom Bloom) NIROP, Fridley site, Fridley, Minnesota

On December 6, 2001, Mr. Sidney Allison, Director of the Naval Facilities Southern Division Environmental Business Line, wrote the following about Tom Bloom s outstanding efforts at the NIROP, Fridley Superfund Site:

I m told your groundwater treatment system has already removed about twelve tons of solvents from the groundwater! Under any circumstances those are impressive results. To top that though, you found ways to save thousands of dollars in effluent disposal costs, plus reconfigure the containment wells to improve system performance. With results like this, I m confident that you re spending our money wisely, and have minimized the risk to the Minneapolis drinking water supply. Your efforts and others like yours make me realize the value the restoration program provides to our nation.

Contacts: Ken Tindall, (312-886-9895)
Tom Bloom, (312-886-1967)

Note of Appreciation to On-Site Coordinators of Capitol Hill Anthrax Response

DRA s received an email from Tom Voltaggio, Deputy Regional Administrator, Region III. He commends OSCs on their help with the Capitol Hill Anthrax Response As we near completion of the Hart Building cleanup, I want to express my appreciation for the fantastic support that you all have provided Region III by

sending your OSCs to help out. These folks have come right in and taken over critical areas of responsibility, integrating into the team in a seamless fashion. We could not have done this job without your folks. I have taken every opportunity to make this point to Governor Whitman, Linda Fisher, Marianne Horinko and every Senator and Senate staffer I speak to...

Contact: Tom Voltaggio (215-814-2900)

Letter of Thanks, Tremont City Landfill AKA North San Landfill site, Tremont City, Ohio

On December 6, 2001 Regional Administrator, Thomas V. Skinner received a letter of appreciation from Co-Chairs of Citizens for Water (CF/Water), Maynard Amstutz and Martin J. Cook, regarding the work Response Section 6 Chief, John J. O Grady did on the Tremont City Landfill AKA North San Landfill Site, Tremont City, Ohio.

Contact: John J. O Grady (312-886-1477)

cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)
Barry Breen (OECA)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Craig Beasley (OSWER)
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers